Commission for higher education

†102. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to constitute any commission for getting better results in higher education;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to set up a National Commission on Higher Education for improvement of higher education including structural reforms in higher education, new and innovative ideas relating to standards of education, resolution of disputes if any between two or more regulatory bodies in regard to standards of education, measures for the coordinated growth and qualitative improvement in higher education. No consensus has been reached in regard to the need for setting up the Commission.

Central university status to Garhwal and Kumaon Universities

†103. SHRI HARISH RAWAT; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central university status have been given to the universities in all the States of the North-East, having special status; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering the proposal to give Central university status to the Garhwal and Kumaon universities of Uttarakhand, as these universities are also situated in a State having special status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Manipur University, Imphal, Tripura University, Agartala and Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar have recently been converted into central universities to ensure their accelerated development and to minimize the imbalance in the educational facilities available in the North Eastern region.

(b) There is no active proposal for conversion of Garhwal University or Kumaon University into a Central University. However, subject to finalisation of Xlth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to establish one central university in each of the 16 states, including Uttarakhand, which do not have any central university.

Sexual abuse in Delhi University

104. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of sexual abuse by members of teaching fraternity in the University

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.